



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive and Chief Constable

**Date:** 02 October 2014

## **DEVELOPING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROVISION IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To share with the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (“the Constabulary”) proposed Strategic Vision for the development of Restorative Justice within Cambridgeshire. (See Appendix1)
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Board of the proposed direction of travel for the commissioning of Restorative Justice Services. (See Restorative Justice - Draft Commissioning Intentions – September 2014 – Appendix 2)

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Board approves the ‘Strategic Vision for Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire’ and the ‘Restorative Justice - Draft Commissioning Intentions – September 2014’ and agrees for both documents to be proactively shared with the public and partners to enable feedback to be sought.
- 2.2 That subject to feedback to the Draft Commissioning Intentions the Board endorses the proposed approach to seek a delivery partner to progress the delivery of the Vision.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Restorative Justice (RJ) is a process which “brings those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward”.
- 3.2 In December 2013 the Ministry of Justice allocated Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) with funding to build ‘capacity and capability’ for both victims support services and victim-driven restorative justice provision. In Cambridgeshire part of the £52k RJ

provision was used to commission a county-wide scoping study of restorative justice provision which included some local community engagement. (See section 4)

- 3.3 From October 2014 the responsibility for commissioning the majority of emotional and support services transfers to PCCs. A specific Victims Services Grant has been awarded by the Ministry of Justice to PCCs to fulfil this obligation. The grant also contains £90k to build and develop the provision for victim-led restorative justice; with a further £184k expected in 2015/16.

#### **4. Current picture of restorative justice provision in Cambridgeshire**

- 4.1 The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) commissioned Restorative Solutions in March 2014 to carry out a scoping study of RJ provision in the county. This work was overseen and informed by members of the inter-agency Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) Victims and Witnesses Sub-Group.
- 4.2 The report was delivered in July 2014. While high levels of enthusiasm and willingness to collaborate were highlighted within partner agencies, researchers also found low levels of public awareness. They also identified an imbalance in RJ maturity (with a strong youth RJ provision and little for adult offenders) and no clear referral pathways or service co-ordination. Within the Constabulary RJ tended to centre around 'street disposals' for low level crime. The report contained 12 recommendations.

#### **5. Strategic Vision for Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire**

- 5.1 Following the delivery of the scoping study the Deputy Chief Constable Alec Wood committed to develop an initial draft strategic vision for the Constabulary to start to influence the development of RJ in the county. The crux of the vision is a move towards full RJ conferencing (in a bid to improve victim satisfaction, offender desistance and build safer, stronger communities) and an integration of RJ services into the new Victims' Hub.
- 5.2 It is intended that this Strategic Vision will be shared with partners and will evolve to become the basis of a whole Cambridgeshire approach.

#### **6. Delivery of the Strategic Vision**

- 6.1 A set of draft Commissioning Intentions has been written to enable the OPCC and Constabulary to transparently share the proposed approach to develop the county's RJ provision.
- 6.2 These intentions suggest two stages of work which will run parallel:
- **December 2014 – December 2015:** the development of a detailed implementation plan and the design a multi –agency 'virtual' Restorative Justice Hub model (integrated into the Victims' Hub) for Cambridgeshire. A delivery partner is being sought to co-fund this initial work.
  - **June 2015 – March 2016** - capacity building of victim-led RJ provision in the county through grant funding of pilot work (with preference to those applications with long-term sustainability plans) to support the delivery of a multi-agency virtual Restorative Justice Hub model for Cambridgeshire.

6.3 At all stages this work will be developed in consultation and in partnership with other agencies working in the county to deliver RJ provision (both victim and offender-led work). The existing CCJB Victims and Witnesses sub-group will be the key conduit to enable this effective and transparent consultation.

6.4 Links will also be made with the Constabulary's Out of Court Disposals Group tasked with the implementation of Community Remedy to ensure any new tranches of work are complementary.

## 7. Proposed next steps

7.1 The 'Restorative Justice - Draft Commissioning Intentions – September 2014' is shared with partners, the public and would-be providers of services (via Restorative Justice Council website) for a two-week period.

7.2 A Restorative Justice Service Specification is finalised and sent to three providers (and any other who express an interest following the consultation period) who will be asked to bid to become co-funding delivery partners.

7.3 The 'Strategic Vision for Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire' will be shared with staff, partners and the public for a six-week period.

## 8. Recommendations

8.1 The Board approves the 'Strategic Vision for Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire' and the 'Restorative Justice - Draft Commissioning Intentions – September 2014' and agrees for both documents to be proactively shared with the public and partners to enable feedback to be sought.

8.2 That subject to feedback to the Draft Commissioning Intentions the Board endorses the proposed approach to seek a delivery partner to progress the delivery of the Vision.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	Strategic Vision for the development of Restorative Justice within Cambridgeshire. (See Appendix1) Restorative Justice - Draft Commissioning Intentions – September 2014'
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nicky Phillipson, Strategic Advisor, OPCC DCC Alec Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary